

Serial No.: 10/682,229
Examiner: G. Goudreau
Title: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE
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REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks. Claim 9 has been editorially revised to include the limitations of its base claim 1 and the single intervening claim 6. Claim 9 is now allowable. Claims 1 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 12 have been editorially revised to now depend from claim 9. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-12 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-2, 5-8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Shintani et al. (US 6,651,678). The limitations of claims 1 and 6 have been added to claim 9; and claims 1 and 6 have been canceled, thus rendering the rejection of claims 1 and 6 now moot. Claims 2, 5, 7-8 and 12 have been editorially revised to now depend from claim 9, that has been allowed. Since claim 9 is allowed, claims 2, 5, 7-8 and 12 that depend from claim 9 are also allowable. Claims 10 and 11 are also allowable since they also depend from claim 9 that is allowed.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's primary attorney-of-record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.

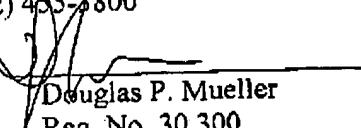


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Respectfully submitted,

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